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TECHNOLOGY 192

Trends

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says the roadster travels from zero to 60 mph in about four seconds and goes about 250 miles on a charge at a running cost of about a penny a mile.

"Who Killed the Electric Car?" isn't revolutionary. Vista is expected to deliver reliability, security, compatibility and some new features such as parental controls and the ability to search your system.

Businesses are expected to wait until Microsoft patches any problems with a follow-up version. But with Vista, you can expect Vista to be ubiquitous. However, Web-based software, documents and applications could give it plenty of competition.

— Dean Takahashi

We're all gamers now

While Sony and Microsoft duke it out for hard-core gamers with their high-priced machines, Nintendo's Wii has a chance to become the first console since arguably the Atari 2600 to appeal to the entire family — and find a home in nearly every house. Already, the company's DS handheld is catching on with non-gamers by offering titles such as "Brain Age."

Meanwhile, easy-to-play "casual" games are showing up in gadgets from iPods to mobile phones. You may not get the appeal of "Grand Theft Auto," but just try to avoid playing solitaire while you're waiting for the

bus or a meeting to start.

Games were an estimated \$28 billion industry worldwide in 2006, according to DFC Intelligence. But the industry remains smaller than the film industry. Casual fans could make games far more ubiquitous.

— Troy Wolverton

"The tipping point has been reached and it's time for the solar industry to make products that are attainable for the masses. Entrepreneurs are racing to create the most cost-efficient way to build solar for average residents.

While bigger solar companies such as SunPower cash in on corporate contracts, smaller entrepreneurs like NanoSolar or MiaSole are fine-tuning their new thin-film technology. You may not be able to afford a solar roof next year, but it's a sure bet the sun's beams will be used to power everything from Google's Mountain View, Calif. campus to more rounds of venture capital frenzy.

— Sarah Jane Tribble

Couch potatoes celebrate

The dream of a world where anyone can watch just about any Hollywood movie ever made in their living rooms at the touch of a button will start to become reality in 2007. AT&T and Verizon are planning big rollouts of their IPTV (Internet protocol television) services, which have the potential to offer hundreds of movies and other programming on demand.

Meanwhile, Apple Computer will launch its iTV device, which will connect consumers' TVs

with its iTunes music and movie service. BitTorrent plans to launch an iTunes rival in February with thousands of major studio movies. And with Intel offering Viiv-based entertainment services on PCs and Microsoft already offering downloadable movies to Xbox 360 users, Sony is likely to follow closely behind with its own service.

— Troy Wolverton

I can find you now

In 2007, most cell phones will adhere to a federal requirement to include a GPS chip, which communicates with global positioning satellites. It can provide a location for the cell phone owner, in case of emergencies, but it will also open up a host of new services.

Services based on location are already beginning. For example, Palo Alto, Calif.-based Loopt provides a social mapping service. Using Loopt, Nextel's Boost Mobile alerts you if your invited friends are nearby. Sprint offers a service called Family Locator, to let parents pinpoint the location of their kids with cell phones.

Coming very soon will be tailored searches that depend on your location. Earlier this year, Google signed a deal with Japanese mobile carrier KDDI. The Google search box will appear on KDDI phones in Japan. With the combination of a GPS chip and the Google search engine, search results can be personalized for your location. And you may be hit with a barrage of ads telling you to just walk around the corner to the nearest restaurants or bookstore.

— Therese Poley

Macworld

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introduced at the conference.

Apple has said it will release Leopard in spring 2007. Mac users would love to see Leopard released at Macworld, but judging from the frequency of Steve's victory over Conrad Burns was the top story, while 206 voters (38 percent) chose summer wildfires as the top story. Other choices were David Dawson's execution (6 percent), the ballots removed from the November ballot (4 percent),

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Nelson

Continued from 1B

stolen a while back. She did the obvious things like cancel credit cards and report the theft to the police. But even then, she even-

developed her skills at creating the puzzles with form and structure. The Internet provides her with a forum to share her cre-

Sen. Jeff Eissmann

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